

# Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1910.

## THE BALLINGER BUSINESS.

Ballinger is to have his innings now  
 before the Committee of Investigation.  
 Verities, the attorney from Ten-  
 nessee, made an opening statement on  
 May 1 in which he said that the de-  
 would show that the testi-  
 of Glavis and others was "grossly  
 false" and that "there is no act  
 of Ballinger to which it is possible  
 to ascribe an unworthy motive or im-  
 purpose otherwise than through  
 suspicion of a perverted mind, or  
 resentment of a discharged pub-  
 lican, or the programme of an un-  
 usual political intrigue." Among  
 things Mr. Verities said was:  
 "On 4, 1909, there came a relief  
 of that meant much or little, as  
 please, but it seems to be a part  
 of the res gestae, and will be illustra-  
 tive, in a striking way, of the  
 case as it is closed. Whether Mr.  
 not hurried off to Europe to get  
 a from the Colonel or not we do  
 not know; but there will have to be  
 a taller sweating than the wit-  
 ness for the prosecution have yet  
 if the Glavis and Pinchot indict-  
 is to hold water.

far they have not made good,  
 Watterson to the contrary not-  
 standing. It looks to us as if  
 is not a case that should be set-  
 tled in political lines; but solely upon  
 merits. One of the best ways of  
 saving the natural resources of  
 country is to demonstrate the in-  
 jury of the Government and its fair-  
 ness with the subject. Glavis ad-  
 in his early testimony that he  
 not charge any criminal act  
 at Ballinger, but only claimed  
 Ballinger had not conducted the  
 of his office as Glavis thought  
 could have done, and that ap-  
 to have been the head and front  
 of all the offending. Probably  
 are a great many clerks in the  
 of the Government who think  
 they would be able to do better,  
 were it not the least doubt in our  
 mind that Loeb would have managed  
 while affairs during the last year  
 of the late militant Administra-  
 tion very much more satisfaction  
 people than when Loeb was in  
 the important position of buffer  
 between the Government and the  
 Colonel. It is always

never heard of Ballinger playing  
 with old Taft as Garfield used  
 to play with the Colonel—he  
 ad so much to do recently in  
 the assaults of the muckrakers  
 at he has had little time to de-  
 a physical exercise. It looks as  
 if he will be found, guilty; at any  
 rate here does not appear to be any  
 evidence against him, and  
 three or four months of an ex-  
 traordinary strenuous time he will  
 be tired to go at will. What he  
 to do, as we have suggested  
 times, is to insist upon Mr.  
 accepting his resignation, not  
 he is guilty, but because his  
 less, however the case against  
 him, has been impaired. Af-  
 signing, he could resume the  
 of his profession with added  
 as an expert in Government

## OTHER EXPRESS MELON.

American Express Company will  
 at another melon. It has the  
 laid away in a well-protected  
 Its stockholders want the  
 The company has an equi-  
 worth about \$1,000,000, according  
 New York Press, and has about  
 90 invested in buildings, and  
 its capital stock of \$1,000,000  
 approximately little back of it in  
 y of paid-in capital. Yet the  
 y has been making money and  
 deal of it, at started out with  
 ds of 6 per cent., and raised  
 per cent. in 1901, only to in-  
 crease to 12 per cent. in 1906.  
 Dividends were paid, not on the  
 capital of the company, but on  
 the \$1,000,000 of watered stock,  
 standing which fact, the com-  
 pany has a undivided surplus of  
 600.

Wells Fargo Company has done  
 well. For many years its  
 ds ranged between 8 and 10  
 at. As this did not suffice to  
 its surplus, the company cut  
 per cent "melon" in 1909, and  
 the stockholders as a gift three  
 as much money as they had  
 invested. Nevertheless, with  
 poration, as with the American  
 Company, the surplus is still  
 p. The Adams Company is in  
 the happy class, and has dis-  
 \$26,000,000 of surplus dis-  
 to its stockholders in the last  
 are.  
 It is fine for the stockholders. It  
 is than a stake in the Klondike,  
 Africa. It is as good as a mint

and much more profitable than the  
 average trust.  
 The economic rate of interest in this  
 country is now about 3.40 per cent.  
 This is the average return which  
 money brings. If a man make more  
 than 3.40 per cent. he is lucky. If  
 his earnings fall below that figure,  
 some one else is making what should  
 come to him. This fact shows, by  
 comparison, how unreasonable are the  
 profits made by the express companies.  
 Why should they make 12 per cent.  
 while the average man makes 3.40 per  
 cent? Why should they declare extra  
 300 per cent. dividends, while a busi-  
 ness man is lucky to withdraw his  
 capital unimpaired?

Something is radically wrong with  
 any system of Government that per-  
 mits such tremendous profits from  
 public carriage. That something is  
 the monopoly enjoyed by the express  
 companies in many parts of the  
 country. They and they alone are  
 authorized to carry parcels and pack-  
 ages on the public highways. They  
 have no competition. They can carry  
 express at practically any rate they  
 choose to charge.  
 Victor Murdock, Prince of Insur-  
 gents, declared some time ago that the  
 Government, under a close construction  
 of the law, had the exclusive right  
 of public carriage, which is now being  
 exclusively exercised by the express  
 companies. He advanced a strong  
 argument to support his contention,  
 and cited court decisions which proved  
 his case to our mind. Nothing more  
 has been heard of this, however, and  
 with it seems to have perished the  
 parcels post bill, which would surely  
 have broken the monopoly. Are both  
 of these measures really dead? Is  
 Congress to annually face a postal  
 deficit while the express companies  
 grow sleek and fat off their monopoly?  
 Is Congress always to make the people  
 pay double to the companies in order  
 that express dividends may be  
 doubled? The questions are plain  
 enough, but we suspect the answers  
 will be a long time coming.

## MR. TAFT'S RABBIT FOOT.

Mr. Taft appears to have picked up  
 a stitch or two by his tariff arrange-  
 ment with Canada, and he did it all  
 by himself. "In just such negotiations  
 as this," says the New York Evening  
 Post, "Mr. Taft is at his best. His  
 personal charm, his tact, his amabili-  
 ty, his natural bent toward compro-  
 mise, all stand him in good stead, and  
 in this case the country as well. In  
 no field of diplomacy has our record  
 been marred by such gross stupidity  
 as in our negotiations during many  
 decades with Canada."  
 Such words as these must be as  
 sweet as a daisy in a cow's mouth  
 to the President, who has had precious  
 few congratulations from the press  
 lately. It will be found, we believe,  
 before the end of his term that he  
 has done a good many things that  
 were worth while; but, just the same,  
 he will have to get out after his pres-  
 ent term to make room for our Can-  
 didate. The fact that Mr. Taft has  
 been using the rabbit foot instead of  
 the broad sword or the bludgeon is  
 greatly to his credit. There is Mr. Can-  
 non, for example, who is said to have  
 been ejected out of his job by the  
 President, which we don't believe, and  
 there is Mr. Aldrich, who has been  
 "battered by Mr. Taft for his down-  
 setting; and we may be happy yet.

## PRECISELY SO, BROTHER.

The special issue involved in the  
 Maryland (Cockey) case we do not  
 know, but the Virginia Assembly  
 evinced a wholesome respect for the  
 spirit of the Constitution in refusing  
 to take the first step towards opening  
 the public preserves to private exploi-  
 tation. If this course was provincial  
 it was only so in the sense that it is  
 the peculiar province of the Legislature  
 to protect the general against the  
 special interest.

Thus speaks the Virginian-Pilot, of  
 Norfolk, in quoting some remarks of  
 ours to the effect that the failure of  
 the Assembly to pass suitable oyster  
 laws showed a provincial spirit. The  
 Pilot speaks well, but not wisely, and  
 speaks not to the State, but to its  
 Tidewater readers, who worship the  
 Baylor survey. Those to whom the  
 Pilot speaks will rejoice, since they  
 feel that their interests are the gen-  
 eral interest.

The failure of the Assembly to enact  
 the Byrd-Wickham bill was provin-  
 cial, and provincial solely and only  
 because, as the Pilot says, it is the  
 true province of a Legislature to pro-  
 tect the general against the special in-  
 terest. The Assembly did the con-  
 trary. It preserved the special inter-  
 est and sacrificed the general. It  
 pleased a few thousand tongs and  
 went contrary to the advice of ex-  
 perts, to the wishes of the great ma-  
 jority of the people of the State, and to  
 the real needs of the situation. Tide-  
 water is not Virginia, and the  
 tongs are not the whole people.

## IN RICHMOND OH, NO!

One of our lay brethren has a griev-  
 ance. In our Monday morning medita-  
 tion this week we made bold to sug-  
 gest that a little more preaching of  
 the Gospel and a little less preach-  
 ing of things that are not in the Gos-  
 pel, except in an incidental way, if at  
 all, would be for the edification of the  
 race. In the course of our observa-  
 tions, upon this point, we spoke of the  
 style of preaching done by Moses D.  
 Hoge and John A. Broadus, two of the  
 most eminent divines of the South-  
 ern churches, and remarked, in pass-  
 ing, that such preaching nowadays  
 would attract multitudes, even as it  
 did in the time of the Master.  
 Brother Bickers has taken offense  
 and has sent a protest to The Times-  
 Dispatch in which he says, among  
 other things, that this is the worst  
 thing that this paper has yet done in its  
 "dings" at civic righteousness as ex-  
 pounded by some of the appointed ves-  
 sels. Seeing how it is that we have  
 belonged, on both sides of the house, to

preachers' families for the last four  
 or five generations it would not be  
 possible for us to underestimate the  
 pulpits and its work; but when it comes  
 down to the subject of civic righteous-  
 ness we have a very good model to  
 follow, as it would seem to us. "Is  
 it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar?"  
 . . . Show Me the tribute money.  
 And they brought unto him a penny.  
 And he saith unto them, Whose is  
 this image and superscription? They  
 say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith  
 he unto them, Render therefore unto  
 Caesar the things that are Caesar's,  
 and unto God the things that are  
 God's. And when they heard it, they  
 marvelled, and left him, and went  
 their way."

By and by, we may get enough sense  
 to let these things alone; but, surely,  
 those who give so much good counsel  
 to others should not object to an oc-  
 casional excursion into the religious  
 domain by "the least of these, my  
 brethren." Fortunately, no one is un-  
 der the slightest obligation to accept  
 our view upon what Dr. Broadus  
 called "the preparation and delivery of  
 sermons," a book, by the way, which  
 has been pronounced by an eminent  
 Scottish divine as "the finest book on  
 homiletics that was ever written; but  
 we like the excitement and indulge our  
 theological bent now and then, having  
 been intended for the ministry, in  
 fact, as all good boys at Due West  
 were many years ago, before the rail-  
 road ran to that town, and we would  
 regret it very much if we should be  
 deprived of the privilege of helping  
 the clergy in their proper and divinely  
 appointed work.

We wish all the churches in Rich-  
 mond and throughout Christendom  
 were filled with devout worshippers  
 every Sabbath Day; but are they? We  
 do not think they are, and if we  
 think correctly, why are they not?  
 The Rev. Dr. H. K. Carroll, of New  
 York, has prepared recently some in-  
 teresting statistics of the religious  
 bodies in the United States, covering  
 a period of five years. In 1905 the  
 total membership of all the Christian  
 churches in the United States aggre-  
 gated 24,282,543, of which number 12-  
 004,656 were credited to the Roman  
 Catholic Church. In 1907 there was a  
 gain of 1,241,286 in church mem-  
 bership; in 1908 there was a gain of 729-  
 647. In 1907 the total Protestant gains  
 were 571,413; in 1908 they were 421-  
 804. Since the United States census  
 of 1890, or in the eighteen years cov-  
 ered by the Carroll statistics, the gain of  
 church membership was 66 per cent.,  
 or less than 5 per cent. annually. Dur-  
 ing the same period the increase in the  
 number of ministers was 49 per cent.,  
 or less than 3 per cent. annually. During  
 this period the Church has been  
 particularly active in what  
 Brother Bickers calls works of civic  
 righteousness, and in some parts of  
 the country, but not in Richmond,  
 mark that the ministers have adopted  
 all sorts of jimmicks to keep up the  
 excitement.

It would seem to the ordinary ob-  
 server that with all the civic organ-  
 izations—Mothers' Congresses, hook-  
 worm societies, pellagra conferences,  
 Governors' conferences, the Elks, the  
 Eagles and the Owls, the suffragette  
 movements, the settlement workers,  
 Taft's lecturing at Yale on the civic  
 uplift and Brother Roosevelt sermon-  
 izing at every turn of three contin-  
 ents and speaking from the Bible and  
 the Koran with equal facility and fe-  
 licity—it would appear that with all  
 these agencies in the field, the Church  
 might be excused, as such, from dip-  
 ping into business over which it is  
 not expressly set. So that we return  
 to our original suggestion that a little  
 more Gospel, and a little less politics,  
 and a little less mixing with the  
 things which do not belong to it,  
 would make the pulpit far more effec-  
 tive in its work. Of course, nothing  
 that we say here and now is to be  
 taken as applying, in any sense, to  
 conditions in Richmond, but only to  
 conditions as we have known them,  
 say, in South Carolina. When he was  
 much criticised some years ago for  
 preaching about the venial offences of  
 members of his congregation, a dis-  
 tinguished minister asked in despair,  
 "Well, what can I preach about?" "Oh,  
 shucks," came the answer, "preach  
 about the Chinese; they haven't got a  
 friend in this country." That is why  
 we are now talking about the habita-  
 tions of horrid cruelty, so to say, in  
 South Carolina.

## A CHANGING COURT.

The Supreme Court is a heavy loser  
 by Justice Brewer's death. He was  
 one of the ablest, if not the ablest,  
 judges on the bench. Eminent judicial  
 in mind and conservative in temper,  
 he never removed himself from the  
 world of public affairs and never per-  
 mitted the maze of legal precedent to  
 obscure his vision or cloud his com-  
 mon sense. While his voice was al-  
 ways heard and his influence was al-  
 ways felt in important cases, he was  
 pre-eminently a moulder of public  
 opinion. His speech against the in-  
 come tax amendment, for example,  
 which was delivered at a dinner in  
 New York, aroused the whole country.  
 His views on woman's suffrage gave  
 to that cause a dignity it had never  
 enjoyed before that time.

President Taft will, of course, be  
 called upon to name Mr. Justice  
 Brewer's successor, and, thus, in less  
 than a year will have to name two men  
 to the highest tribunal of the land. It  
 is a most unusual opportunity. Several  
 Presidents have served a full term and  
 have not named a single justice to the  
 bench; one President, Monroe, sat  
 in the White House for eight years  
 and could not send a single nomination  
 for the Supreme Court to the  
 Senate. Most of the Presidents have  
 been content to name one new justice

in their term of office.  
 The country is as fortunate as is  
 Mr. Taft in the circumstances which  
 give him two appointments during his  
 term. Mr. Taft is a lawyer, with a  
 lawyer's reverence for the law and  
 a lawyer's respect for the bench. He  
 has long pleaded for an able, patriotic  
 and disinterested judiciary, and has  
 given the country a new view of the  
 dignity of the law. He will now have  
 an opportunity of molding a court  
 that will conform to his views.

The appointment of Justice Brewer's  
 successor, so soon after the appoint-  
 ment of Justice Lurton, may have a  
 very serious effect upon the policy of  
 the court. The nine justices have been  
 far from unanimous in recent years.  
 As one after another new problem has  
 been presented to them, and as trusts,  
 railroads and colonies have been ar-  
 ranged before them for final judgment,  
 the justices have disagreed as  
 widely as honest men could disagree.  
 Ever since the so-called insular cases  
 of De Lima vs. Bidwell and Downes  
 vs. Bidwell, the court has stood five  
 to four on practically every great de-  
 cision.

This difference within the court has  
 not been due to any political feeling,  
 for the justices of the Supreme Court  
 are not politicians, we are glad to  
 say. It has rather been the funda-  
 mental cleavage between two schools  
 of political thinkers regarding the  
 powers of the Government and the  
 scope of its rights.

The position to be taken by Justice  
 Lurton on these problems has not  
 yet been determined, and will not be  
 known until some such case as the  
 American Tobacco dissolution suit is  
 decided. He succeeded a justice known  
 for his conservatism and for his un-  
 usual legal views. Justice Brewer be-  
 longed to the opposite school and al-  
 ways showed, within the strict bounds  
 of justice, that he believed in the re-  
 jection of corporations to the last letter  
 of the law. If his successor be of the  
 same mind, and if Justice Lurton be  
 likewise an advocate of strong central  
 control, the court may be expected  
 within the next few years to change  
 its position on the railroad and trust  
 questions. The fundamental constitu-  
 tional views of Justice Brewer's suc-  
 cessor may have more effect upon the  
 control of corporations than all the  
 acts of Congress.

## WHAT THE PAPERS THINK.

The demand for a Democratic con-  
 vention is growing, nearly every Dem-  
 ocratic paper in Virginia having ex-  
 pressed a favorable attitude on the  
 subject. "The necessity," says the Vir-  
 ginian-Pilot, "is as great for having  
 the party formulate a primary method  
 which will exclude from participation  
 in elections for nominees all persons  
 who intend to support candidates 're-  
 gardless of personal or political af-  
 filiations.' Now, as it has always been  
 in Virginia, he who is not for and  
 with the party is against it.

The Commonwealth, of East Falls  
 Church, deprecates the opinion ex-  
 pressed by The Times-Dispatch that it  
 would be good business for the Gov-  
 ernment to find out exactly how much  
 the pensioners will take to settle all  
 their present and prospective claims  
 for saving the Union, as "it only stir-  
 up bad feeling." The Commonwealth  
 says that "it is not the worthy old  
 soldier who is to blame." On the con-  
 trary, "he is not, as a rule, getting  
 a penny more than he deserves." In  
 fact, if the adjudication of pensions  
 were entirely equitable he would get  
 even more and leave the Treasury many  
 millions better off. It is just as you  
 like, but the inexpressible fact is that  
 the Government is now, forty-five  
 years after the Union was saved, pay-  
 ing out in pensions nearly \$162,000,000  
 a year for saving it. We do not think  
 it was worth the money.

The Staunton Dispatch and News  
 says that all the knackers in that  
 town have become boasters. "But one  
 member was found yesterday who  
 lived in Staunton and he was never  
 known to say a pleasant word in his  
 life." This is "going some," and here's  
 hoping that not even one of the  
 miserable crew will be left alive to  
 tell the tale of how we kept the town  
 down.

The Alexandria Gazette does not  
 understand why the Rev. Mr. Hater,  
 of Jersey City, should have re-  
 signed simply because he has no hair  
 on his head, and makes this note on  
 the subject: "All the pictures of the  
 Apostle Peter represent him as a bald-  
 headed man, and Elsha the prophet  
 had a shiny scalp and was hooted at  
 by children for his lack of a capillary  
 outfit." Which proves at least that  
 our contemporary is beginning to look  
 at the pictures if it do not pay much  
 attention to the text.

Says the Petersburg Index-Appeal: "A  
 reporter comes from Chicago that the  
 proposed anti-saloon election is off  
 in that city by reason of the number  
 of forged signatures to the anti-saloon  
 petitions. There were some things we  
 did not like in the anti-saloon elec-  
 tion in this city, as we have often  
 stated, but Virginians of the prohibi-  
 tion persuasion have not, to our  
 knowledge, yet resorted to Michigan  
 and Chicago methods."

The Cone Johnson organ is making  
 good. Last Sunday the Houston Post  
 printed three columns, all reading mat-  
 ter, of what Cone thinks about the  
 constitutionality of statutory prohibi-  
 tion. We haven't read it yet, but we  
 would say at a venture that it would  
 sort of statutory or constitutional  
 prohibition would be opposed to any  
 of the natural sympathies of the  
 organ.

The Columbia State, which is always  
 floundering in the mud of its self-con-  
 ceit, which never, by any chance, be-  
 lieves that anybody else knows any-  
 thing about anything, and which really  
 knows nothing itself, has been  
 aspersing the John C. Calhoun Inform-

ation of The Times-Dispatch, and  
 speaking despitely of our parts of  
 speech. It doesn't matter in the least,  
 however, what it says, as we can re-  
 peat by heart more of the Pinckney  
 "Life of Calhoun," the latest and most  
 authoritative study of the great man,  
 than it has ever read.

Mr. A. N. Butler, of Meriden,  
 has bet the Springfield Republi-  
 can next year's subscription to that  
 newspaper, that inside of the  
 year it will acknowledge that  
 "the Providence speech (of Mr. Taft)  
 was the lump of butter slipped under  
 Aldrich's choker, just as the Winona  
 speech slid Cannon into history." So  
 this is what Mr. Taft, the guileless  
 man, has been doing, eh? The Winona  
 speech was really intended to unhorse  
 old Joe, was it? Surely, Taft moves  
 in a mysterious way his wonders to  
 perform, and just to think of it old  
 Joe didn't suspect it. Oh! William,  
 William.

Several days ago the New York Sun  
 commented upon the statement that  
 Mr. John Henry Bethea, the Southern  
 gentleman, who killed one Pullman  
 porter and one Pullman conductor at  
 Wilmington, Delaware, was naturally  
 "a prominent South Carolinian, of  
 course," or words to that effect. The  
 Sun will now be disposed to plume it-  
 self upon its diagnosis of the case when  
 it learns from the Charleston News  
 and Courier that Mr. Bethea "was a  
 man of quiet and unassuming man-  
 ners," that "his voice was soft and  
 conciliatory," and that "his personality  
 breathed an atmosphere of good will  
 toward his fellowmen." Isn't it  
 strange how the Sun knew all these  
 points about the marksman, unsight-  
 unseen.

The New York Evening Post is letter  
 perfect on nearly everything that it  
 touches, but it does not seem to be  
 quite as well informed on arctic ex-  
 plorations as it ought to be. It is  
 disposed now to reject the statements  
 of Governor Brown, of Georgia, as "so  
 much waste paper," and bases its re-  
 jection upon the fact, if it be a fact,  
 that Dr. Cook "simply stated that he  
 was at such a latitude and longitude  
 on such a day, without giving any ob-  
 servations at all." That is true, but  
 how can the Evening Post say on its  
 conscience that he was not there? Un-  
 til it can prove that he was not at the  
 points designated on the days and at  
 the times when he says he was there,  
 it cannot say absolutely that he was  
 not there. Besides, as Governor Brown  
 has shown, the reports of what they  
 saw in the polar regions made by both  
 Cook and Peary are identical, with the  
 difference that Cook's report was made  
 first. Peary's report is so much like  
 Cook's that it looks as if Peary had  
 plagiarized what the original discoverer  
 discovered.

"This brings us to the point of say-  
 ing that men and newspapers are  
 prone to vilify accuse public men with  
 no other foundation than misconstrued  
 motives," says the Houston Post. We  
 are glad that something brought it to  
 this point, and now that it has the  
 point we hope that it will hold on to it.

We do not share at all in the criticism  
 of Congressman Burleson, of  
 Texas, for introducing the resolution  
 to declare the Speakership vacant af-  
 ter the recent fight against Mr. Can-  
 non in the House at Washington.  
 What he did was really the only  
 logical thing to do. The fact that the  
 other Democrats did not agree with  
 him, although they all voted with him,  
 does not alter the case. He did the  
 right thing, the logical thing, and he  
 can afford to wait for his vindication  
 which is sure to come.

If the Royal Psalmist had been in  
 this town yesterday evening he could  
 have said not in his haste, but with  
 the utmost deliberation, that some men  
 are inclined to handle the truth care-  
 lessly, as, for example, the men who  
 are trying to make the impression  
 that any attack has been made by  
 anybody on the ministers of Rich-  
 mond.

The Hon. William W. Welton, "the  
 man away up in old Connecticut that  
 reads The Times-Dispatch every day,"  
 writes: "It goes without saying that  
 I like it very much."

If Postmaster-General Hitchcock  
 did not catch the thieves who robbed  
 the post-office at Richmond and recover  
 the stamps they stole, how would it  
 do for him to charge them against  
 the magazines which have been sneak-  
 ing through the mails at newspaper  
 postage rates?

The Federal bill to admit Arizona  
 and New Mexico as separate States is  
 a fine measure, but the people will not  
 believe it, because the bill was favor-  
 ably reported by Young Hopeful Bever-  
 ridge.

## Voice of the People

Communications must not  
 contain more than 200 words.  
 When this limit is exceeded letters  
 will be returned.  
 No anonymous communications  
 will be accepted. Letters from  
 a stamped envelope, with the  
 writer's address, must accompany  
 every communication.

A Protest.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir—As a citizen of Richmond, a  
 church layman and a reader of your  
 paper, I wish to respectfully protest  
 against your editorial reflection upon  
 the Richmond ministry in to-day's  
 paper. I am not consciously unkind,  
 but entirely frank when I say that I  
 consider your slip at the pulpit as a  
 matter of the most serious and unjust  
 of the many cheap, gratuitous flings by  
 the secular press that are so evidently in-  
 spired by a malicious opinion of the  
 pulpit's pronounced stand for civic  
 righteousness. I venture the asser-  
 tion that our Richmond ministers  
 preach the gospel as faithfully as it  
 is anywhere proclaimed, and that the  
 attendance upon church services in  
 this old Mecca of the Southland will  
 compare most favorably with that of  
 any community. Lamentations over  
 the assumed empty pews because of the  
 passing of certain esteemed celebrities  
 are born of misinformation. Seriously,  
 The Times-Dispatch ought to go to  
 church or stop its "bad breaks."

W. M. BICKERS.

Richmond, March 28.

## Sounded the Keynote.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir—The Augusta County Argus  
 and The Times-Dispatch have sounded  
 the keynote for all means let us have  
 a State convention this summer. In  
 the name of Hon. Thomas Watson, we  
 not only want to know where we are  
 at, but we want to know who the  
 leaders of the Democratic party are at.  
 GEO. MUFFIE BLAKE.

Richmond, March 28.



**HOME BAKED FOOD,**  
 fresh, good, wholesome,  
 economical. Readily  
 made with  
**Royal Baking Powder**  
 No Alum  
 No Lime

## Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor,  
 Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins  
 or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

**The Seven Wonders of the World.**  
 1. Please give me the seven won-  
 ders of the world.  
 The seven wonders of the world are  
 in New York City. In acres, and the  
 distance it extends through the city?  
 2. The seven most remarkable struc-  
 tures of ancient times were the Egyptian  
 pyramids, the Mausoleum erected by  
 Artemisia at Halicarnassus, the  
 Colossus at Rhodes, the statue of  
 Zeus at Olympia, and the Pharos or light-  
 house at Alexandria.  
 3. Central Park extends from Fifty-  
 ninth to One Hundred and Tenth  
 Streets, from Fifth Avenue to  
 Eighth Avenue. Its total length is  
 more than two and one-half miles.  
 Its total width is more than half a  
 mile. It covers 845 acres.

**Grasshopper Sent,** etc.  
 William C. Bentley writes that the  
 "Grasshopper Sent on Sweet Potato  
 Vine" was composed by the late Innes  
 Randolph.  
**Fishing Rights.**  
 Is it legal for a man to dam a  
 stream in such manner that all the  
 fish coming up stream will be forced  
 into his trap and deprive all parties  
 above him of any chance of running  
 fish?